



## WHAT'S NEW - SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA

**Argonaut Hotel.** In August, Kimpton Hotels & Restaurants is slated to open its new waterfront Argonaut Hotel in San Francisco. Housed in the historic Haslett Warehouse, the Argonaut Hotel will be located at the corner of Jefferson and Hyde Streets in the San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park at Fisherman's Wharf. The ground floor of the new 252-room hotel will include the Park's new visitor center. Designed to resemble a ship, the public areas of the Argonaut Hotel will have wooden plank floors and portholes in the lobby walls, adding to the overall nautical atmosphere. Adjacent to the hotel will be a new casual style café, the Blue Mermaid Chowder House, specializing in a selection of homemade chowders. **Press contact: Kimpton Hotels & Restaurants Group, Inc., Gretchen Krueger, 415/561-0888, ext. 2315, email [Gretchen@landispr.com](mailto:Gretchen@landispr.com) or Kathleen Bertolani, 415/397-5572, email [Kathleen.bertolani@kimptongroup.com](mailto:Kathleen.bertolani@kimptongroup.com).** Public contact: Argonaut Hotel, 866/415-0704, [www.argonauthotel.com](http://www.argonauthotel.com).

**Art & Wine Gardens.** Located in Boulder Creek, the new Art & Wine Gardens recently opened its doors in celebration of the region's rich palette of local artists, musicians, winemakers, and chefs. Stocked with many exotic plants from orchids to cacti and decorated with refreshing fountains, wind chimes, garden art, and a large grapefruit tree, the garden gallery features local vintners, such as D'Elissagaray, Glenwood Oaks Winery, Pelican Ranch Winery, Botavina Winery, which uses herbs in their winemaking process, and others. The artisans gallery and gift shop is an ongoing exhibit of local as well as international handcrafted artworks, including fine art (paintings, drawings, pastel, etc.), stained glass, pottery and ceramics, jewelry, photography, crochet, metal sculpture, plant & garden art, wine-related craft, woodworking craft, and more. The art and plants are all available for sale. The Art & Wine Gardens events include live music (Friday

through Monday), BBQs, wine appreciation classes, and art demonstrations, and can accommodate small private parties. The gallery is open daily from 11 a.m. until 9 p.m.

**Press and public contact: Art & Wine Gardens, 831/338-2440,**

[www.artandwinegardens.com](http://www.artandwinegardens.com).

**Asian Art Museum of San Francisco.** The Asian Art Museum of San Francisco is the city's newest must-see cultural destination. Having long outgrown its Golden Gate Park home of 35 years, the museum reopened this past spring in a new \$160 million facility designed by world-renowned architect Gae Aulenti at the city's historic Civic Center Plaza. The Asian Art Museum is one of the largest museums in the world devoted exclusively to Asian art with a collection comprising more than 14,000 objects spanning 6,000 years of history. The museum also offers a wide range of programs for adults and children, free multilingual audio tours, daily docent tours, a museum store and café.

**Press and public contact: Asian Art Museum, 415/581-3500, [www.asianart.org](http://www.asianart.org).**

**Bamboo Giant Nursery.** One of the largest bamboo forests in North America has just completed a trail system for visitors. Bamboo Giant Nursery in Aptos features 15 acres and more than 40 different varieties of bamboo timber. Three self-guided walking tours lead visitors through towering stands of bamboo from around the world, ranging from rare and exotic to common varieties. The nursery also stocks an extensive selection of bamboo plants for sale. **Press contact: Santa Cruz County Conference & Visitors**

**Council, 831/427-4405.** Public contact: Bamboo Giant Nursery, 831/687-0100,

[www.bamboogiant.com](http://www.bamboogiant.com).

**Blackhawk Museum.** *Audubon of the West: Andrew Jackson Grayson* is an exhibition of 20 of Grayson's works created when drawing, painting and documenting America's western birds. Grayson's goal was to complete John J. Audubon's monumental *Birds of America*. Toward that goal, he was encouraged to document species that weren't included in the book and send specimens to the new Smithsonian Institution in Washington D.C. Today we know that Grayson supplied the Smithsonian with nearly two percent of its collections. The exhibition, which also includes maps, photographs

and Grayson's field notes, is on view at the Blackhawk Museum in Danville now through September 7, 2003. **Press contact: Blackhawk Museum, 925/736-2277.** Public contact: 925/736-2280 (recorded information), [www.BlackhawkMuseum.org](http://www.BlackhawkMuseum.org).

**California Palace of the Legion of Honor.** *Degas Sculptures*, on view from October 18, 2003 until February 8, 2004, presents a rare opportunity to view in a single exhibition all 73 bronze sculptures by French impressionist Edgar Degas (1834-1917). The collection, featuring sculptures of bathers, horses, dancers, and of course, the icon of the 19<sup>th</sup>-century art "Little Dancer, Aged Fourteen," comes from the Museu de Arte de Sao Paulo in Brazil, and is one of four complete sets of the artist's bronzes in existence. Besides being a sculptor, Edgar Degas was also a painter, whose innovative compositions, skillful drawing, and perceptive analysis of movement made him one of the late 19<sup>th</sup>-century masters of modern art. **Press contact: California Palace of the Legion of Honor, San Francisco, 415/750-3614.** Public contact: 415/863-3330, [www.thinker.org](http://www.thinker.org).

**Copia: The American Center for Wine, Food and the Arts.** Today, California revels in the success of its wineries, most of which were established in the past 30 years. However, California's role as grape grower and winemaker dates to the 1800s. Though vine disease and then Prohibition wiped out most of the early industry, evidence of these earlier winemakers remains in the form of antique advertisements, business cards and other unique souvenirs. *Grapes in the Golden West: The Early Wine Trade in California*, on view from July 4 through September 22, 2003 at Copia in Napa, offers a look at some examples of wine trade memorabilia from earlier days. **Press contact: Copia: The American Center for Wine, Food & the Arts, 707/256-5950.** Public contact: 707/259-1600 or 888/512-6742, [www.copia.org](http://www.copia.org).

**Crowne Plaza San Francisco International Airport.** After a \$22 million renovation, the Crowne Plaza San Francisco International Airport features the West Bay Café and Lounge, heated pool and whirlpool spa, expanded meeting and banquet facilities and several 24-hour services including a fully-equipped fitness center, business center, room

service, complimentary airport shuttle and sundry shop. The new hotel is also a pet-friendly property offering “pet turn down service” with advance notice. This 309-room property is located two miles south of the airport and is adjacent to Bayside Park, which includes a driving range, several miles of trails along San Francisco Bay for walkers, runners and cyclists, and athletic fields. **Press contact: Wernick Marketing Group, 415/928-7414.** Public contact: Crowne Plaza San Francisco International Airport, 800/411-7275 or 650/342-9200, [www.crowneplaza.com](http://www.crowneplaza.com).

**Lafayette Park Hotel.** The Lafayette Park Hotel & Spa, the only Five Star Diamond hotel in the East Bay, recently announced the grand opening of its full-service, European-style spa. The \$1.6 million addition is the only spa of its caliber in Contra Costa County. The new spa, located poolside on the third floor, offers a full array of treatments from the traditional Swedish massage to the extraordinary LaStone Therapy, a full body treatment using hot and cold basalt and marble stones. In developing the spa menu, the hotel drew inspiration from the beautiful gardens and lush hills and valleys of Contra Costa County to create a distinctive and unique collection of treatments that highlight the herbs, flowers, fruits and woods. **Press contact: Linda Beltran, Woodside Hotels & Resorts, 650/358-3615.** Public contact: Lafayette Park Hotel & Spa, 925/283-3700, [www.lafayetteparkhotel.com](http://www.lafayetteparkhotel.com).

**Ocean Echo Inn and Beach Cottages.** Recently renovated Ocean Echo Inn and Beach Cottages has been a secret hideaway for movie stars and musicians for over 70 years. The two story main house, which was build around 1930, is the center of Ocean Echo Inn & Beach Cottages. Rooms 11, 12 and 14 are located on the second floor of the main house, and are ideal for singles and/or couples. Newly painted Cape Cod-style beach cottages surround the main house and accommodate two to six guests. Many of them have ocean views, fully equipped kitchens, and outdoor barbeque. Tucked in a quiet beach cove between Santa Cruz and Capitola, this oasis offers sun decks and gardens, both recently expanded. **Press and public contact: Ocean Echo Inn and Beach Cottages, 831/462-4192, [www.oceanecho.com](http://www.oceanecho.com).**

**Paramount's Great America.** A universe of new Nickelodeon® fun, friends, and adventures burst into Paramount's Great America this past spring. The stars of Nickelodeon's top-rated TV programs step off screen and come to life to interact with their fans in 10 new exciting rides and attractions. The epicenter of excitement is Nickelodeon™ Central, a brand new area just for kids, offering the premiere of the *SpongeBob SquarePants* 3-D movie (an underwater adventure), *Rugrats Runaway Reptar* family coaster, *Dora's Dune Buggies* (a chance to steer your own beach buggy), and other kid-friendly attractions. **Press contact: Paramount's Great America, 408/986-5986.** Public contact: 408/988-1776, [www.ParamountsGreatAmerica.com](http://www.ParamountsGreatAmerica.com).

**Pacific Bell Park Tours.** San Francisco has yet another walking tour option as, Pacific Bell Park, home to the San Francisco Giants, offers "The Insider's Tour." During the one hour and fifteen minute walking tour, visitors will learn about how the unique new ballpark was built and see the sights only the players and staff get to see. Tour routes include visits to the Visitor's clubhouse, the Press Box, a luxury suite, a major league Dugout and much more. Tours operate year-round and appeal to all ages and can accommodate groups of any size. **Press and public contact: Pacific Bell Park Tours, 415/972-2212, [www.giantsenterprises.com/tours.html](http://www.giantsenterprises.com/tours.html).**

**Roaring Camp Railroads.** Light up the romance on a train ride under the full moon at Roaring Camp Railroads. The Moonlight Dinner Train, available on July 12, August 9, September 6, and October 4, begins with an outdoor steak dinner, followed by hot apple pie, and after-the-ride campfire, folk music and country line dancing. Guests can enjoy steam train excursion either to Bear Mountain or the Big Trees Railroad along the San Lorenzo River Valley. The event runs from 6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m., and reservations are required. **Press contact: Poimiroo & Partners, 916/641-8183.** Public contact: Roaring Camp Railroads, 831/335-4484, [www.roaringcamp.com](http://www.roaringcamp.com).

**San Francisco Bay Trail Maps.** The San Francisco Bay Trail Project just released new Bay Trail maps for exploring the San Francisco Bay shoreline. The new full-color set of six maps, including map of San Francisco Peninsula, South Bay, North Bay, East Bay,

Carquinez Strait, and Marin County, guides walkers, skaters, bicyclists, wildlife watchers and other trail enthusiasts to more than 230 miles of completed trail. On the back of each map, there are photographs and 40 recommended routes including directions, distance, trail surface, natural and historic points of interest, and parking and transit information. The map set costs \$15, while each individual map is \$4.00 (tax, shipping and handling included), and can be ordered by calling Association of Bay Area Governments at (510) 464-7900 or by visiting [www.baytrail.org](http://www.baytrail.org). The San Francisco Bay Trail is a continuous shared-path that, when complete, will encircle San Francisco and San Pablo Bays. **Press contact: San Francisco Bay Trail Project, 510/464-7909, [www.baytrail.org](http://www.baytrail.org).**

**San Francisco Performing Arts Library & Museum.** Opening July 29, 2003, and running through December 2003, the new exhibition *Al Hirschfeld: A Centennial Celebration* presents unique gathering of treasures from Hirschfeld's personal archive. Al Hirschfeld, a renowned caricaturist for the *New York Times*, captured Broadway theatre over eight decades, and his work portrays a mini-history of American theatre. In nearly 40 original drawings, Hirschfeld is recalling such classics as *Oklahoma!* and *Show Boat*, and stars ranging from Lauren Bacall to Al Pacino. Also, groups of visitors can now see a new live performance *Tales from Bohemia*, 45-minute show about San Francisco's Bohemian past, while touring the Performing Arts Library & Museum. Located in the heart of San Francisco's Civic Center Performing Arts complex, a visit to the Performing Arts Library & Museum can easily be combined with visits to the Opera House, Symphony Hall, the San Francisco Public Library, or the Asian Art Museum. **Press contact: San Francisco Performing Arts Library & Museum, 415/255-4800, ext. 817.** Public contact: 415/255-4800, [www.sfpalm.org](http://www.sfpalm.org).

**Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk.** The Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk swings and glides with new thrills for 2003! The new *Fireball* swings daring riders into the sky while swirling them in a frenzy of excitement. *Cliffhanger* offers more skyward suspense in a hang gliding experience sure to prompt shouts of, "I can fly!" The West Coast's only major seaside amusement park features a mile-long beach, more than 34 rides and attractions, games, shops and restaurants. A state historic landmark, the admission-free

Boardwalk celebrates its 96th year as a truly unique California experience. **Press and public contact: Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk, 831/423-5590, [www.beachboardwalk.com](http://www.beachboardwalk.com).**

**Six Flags Marine World.** You'll get looped just looking at it! *Zonga* is Six Flags Marine World's new seriously twisted super-coaster featuring four full-circle, full-tilt looping inversions and looking like a brightly-colored psychedelic steel psycho-pretzel. Opened this spring, the new 112-foot tall thriller is the sixth and wildest major roller coaster among the 35 rides added to the park in the last six years. From the top of *Zonga's* sky-high lift hill, the 20-passenger trains will take a screaming dive at a 70-degree angle then immediately arch backwards into two giant back-to-back steel circles. *Zonga* riders spend the next two minutes wheeling, whirling, rolling and careening through a colorful circumvolution of twisting track, including two more big, breathtaking round-out loops. **Press contact: Six Flags Marine World, 707/556-5227.** Public contact: (707) 643-6722, [www.sixflags.com/parks/marineworld/home.asp](http://www.sixflags.com/parks/marineworld/home.asp)